

Case 3214

***Aegorhinus* Erichson, 1834 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed precedence over *Psuchocephalus* Latreille, 1828**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3 and 81.2.3 of the Code, is to conserve the generic name *Aegorhinus* Erichson, 1834, which is in widespread use for a genus of South American weevils (family CURCULIONIDAE), by giving it precedence over the earlier name *Psuchocephalus* Latreille, 1828, which was used as the valid name by Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal in 1999. These beetles are of considerable interest to biogeographers, and two species are pests of fruit trees.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; CURCULIONIDAE; *Aegorhinus*; *Psuchocephalus*; *Aegorhinus phaleratus*; *Curculio leprosus*; weevils; Argentina; Chile; Subantarctic subregion.

1. The genus *Psuchocephalus* was established by Latreille (1828, p. 597) for a single species of weevil (family CURCULIONIDAE) named as *Curculio leprosus* Olivier, 1807 (p. 395). *C. leprosus* is a junior synonym of *C. vitulus* Fabricius, 1775 (p. 152) and the name of the type species by monotypy of the genus *Psuchocephalus*. This weevil is endemic to the Magellanic forest province of the Subantarctic subregion. The name *Psuchocephalus* was only listed once after its original publication (in an emended spelling: *Psuphocephalus*) by Imhoff (1856, p. 221). However, Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal (1999, p. 140) became aware of its existence and opted for its resurrection as the valid name on the grounds of priority, although they did not use it taxonomically.

2. Erichson (1834, p. 261) established the nominal genus *Aegorhinus* for *Aegorhinus phaleratus* Erichson, 1834 (p. 262), which is the type species by monotypy. This weevil is found in the Maule province of the Subantarctic subregion and in the Central Chile subregion.

3. *Psuchocephalus* and *Aegorhinus* are subjective synonyms (Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal, 1999, p. 140). Following the Principle of Priority, *Psuchocephalus* has priority over *Aegorhinus*. The name *Psuchocephalus* is available but has never been used taxonomically (see Article 23.9.6 of the Code) since its proposal more than one and a half centuries ago (see para. 1 above). Consequently, it would not be in the best interest of stability if the well established name *Aegorhinus* were replaced with *Psuchocephalus* as proposed by Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal (1999). A list of 45 works (by over 35 authors) published between 1946 and 2001 using the name *Aegorhinus* has

been presented to the Commission Secretariat (e.g. Marshall, 1946; van Emden, 1951; Caballero, 1972; Morrone & Roig-Juñent, 2000; Devotto & Gerding, 2001). In Chile, the weevils included in this genus are popularly known as 'cabritos' (little goats) because of their peculiar appearance. These beetles are common between Central Chile and Cape Horn (a distance of 3,800 miles) and the genus includes 22 species. About half of these species are associated with the tree genus *Nothofagus*, the remainder with plant genera of the families Proteaceae, Winteraceae and Gunneraceae (all associated with the biogeography of Gondwanaland). Weevils in this genus are related to genera in Australia and New Zealand, providing evidence of the ancient link between the South American and Australasian land masses. Two species are pests of fruit trees. A key to the species in this genus has been provided by Morrone & Roig-Juñent (2000).

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the name *Aegorhinus* Erichson, 1834 precedence over the name *Psuchocephalus* Latreille, 1828, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Aegorhinus* Erichson, 1834 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Aegorhinus phaleratus* Erichson, 1834, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *Psuchocephalus* Latreille, 1828 whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *Psuchocephalus* Latreille, 1828 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Curculio leprosus* Olivier, 1807, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *Aegorhinus* Erichson, 1834, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *phaleratus* Erichson, 1834, as published in the binomen *Aegorhinus phaleratus* (specific name of the type species of *Aegorhinus* Erichson, 1834);
 - (b) *vitulus* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the binomen *Curculio vitulus* (senior synonym of *Curculio leprosus* Olivier, 1807, the specific name of the type species of *Psuchocephalus* Latreille, 1828);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Psuphocephalus* Imhoff, 1856 (an incorrect subsequent spelling of *Psuchocephalus* Latreille, 1828).

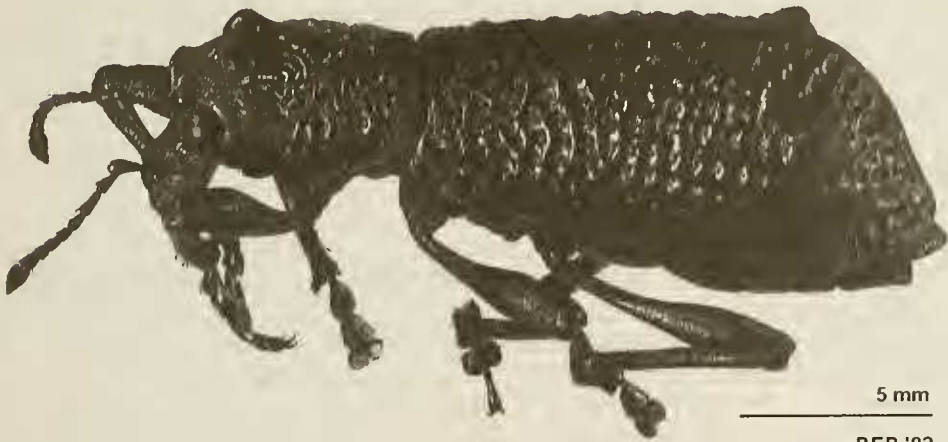
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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).



BER '02

Aegorhinus vitulus (Fabricius, 1775). Lateral view of 21 mm long female specimen from Tres Pasos, Natales, Magallanes, Chile.